

Message Text

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TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON ALUMINUM REPORTS

REF: STATE 182090

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ALUMINUM
WORKING PARTY REPORT ON SUPPLY IN ADDITION THOSE SUGGESTED
REFTEL.

2. DSTI/IND/AL/75.9 - RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY (BAUXITE)

PAGE 2, SECOND PAR. AND SECTION 2 (ESTIMATED BAUXITE
RESERVES IN THE WESTERN WORLD) -- RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING
REVISION TO REPLACE 2ND PAR. AND TABLE:

"WORLD BAUXITE RESERVES (MEASURED, INDICATED, INFERRED
AND RECOVERABLE UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS) WERE
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ESTIMATED IN 1965 TO TOTAL 5.8 BILLION TONS WITH ADDITIONAL

POTENTIAL RESOURCES (INCLUDES SUBECONOMIC AND UNPROVEN) OF
9.6 BILLION TONS; IN 1974, THIS ESTIMATE WAS CONSERVATIVELY
REVISED TO 15.5 BILLION TONS OF RESERVES PLUS AN ADDITIONAL
15 BILLION TONS OF RESOURCES. THESE INCREASES ARE DUE TO
VERY LARGE DEPOSITS CONTINUOUSLY BEING DISCOVERED AND THE
USAGE OF TRIHYDRATE BAUXITE CONTAINING UNDER 35 PERCENT
AL 0 NOW BEING COMMERCIALLY Viable. MORE INCREASES

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CAN BE EXPECTED WITH DISCOVERIES OF NEW FIELDS BY IM-
PROVED ANALYTICAL TOOLS SUCH AS THE BOREHOLE NEUTRON
ACTIVATION PROBE AND AS NEW TECHNOLOGY FACILITATES EXPLOI-
TATION. LACK OF RELIABLE DATA PRECLUDES ACCURATE
ESTIMATING OF THE SIZE OF POTENTIAL NON-BAUXITIC ALUMINUM
BEARING ORES BUT THE RATIO POTENTIAL APPEARS TO BE
EXTREMELY HIGH -- PERHAPS 3,000 TIMES THE CURRENT RESERVES
RESULTING IN VIRTUALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCES
OF ALUMINUM OTHER THAN BAUXITE.

APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE CURRENT PROVEN RESERVES ARE
LOCATED IN AUSTRALIA, ANOTHER 30 PERCENT IN AFRICA, ABOUT
25 PERCENT IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, UNDER 10 PERCENT
IN EUROPE AND MINIMAL AMOUNTS IN ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA."

PAGE 3, TABLE AT TOP OF PAGE - CORRECT KWANANA, AUSTRALIA
AL 0 CONTENT FROM 27/29 PERCENT TO 32 PERCENT.

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PAGES 12-14, - THE FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED INSTEAD OF PRE-
SENT CAPTION FOR "B", AND SECTIONS 1 AND 1.1 THEREUNDER:
(DISPLACING ALL OF PAGES 12 AND 13 AND HALF OF
PAGE 14.

"B - CHANGING RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONDITIONS IN THE
ALUMINUM INDUSTRY"

"RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONDITIONS CAN AND DO CHANGE
SIGNIFICANTLY FOR THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY, BUT ONLY IN AN
ECONOMIC SENSE, NOT GEOLOGICALLY. AS INDICATED AT THE
BEGINNING OF THIS CHAPTER, ALUMINUM IS THE 'MOST PLEN-
TIFUL METAL' IN THE EARTH'S CRUST. THAT GEOLOGICAL FACT
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IS NOT SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE DURING THE FORE-
SEEABLE FUTURE, EVEN IF THE GROWTH OF ALUMINUM
CONSUMPTION SURPASSES THE MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS.

CHANGES IN THE ECONOMICS OF RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY-
STEM PRIMARILY FROM CHANGES IN THE PRICE OR COST OF
BAUXITE. THUS THE SHARP RISE IN SUCH PRICES SINCE EARLY
1974 INTENSIFIES AND ACCELERATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF LESS

COSTLY BAUXITE SUPPLIES AND OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE COMMERCIAL USE OF NON-BAUXITIC ALUMINUM - CONTAINING MINERALS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY PLENTIFUL IN OECD COUNTRIES."

3. REQUEST MISSION PASS FOREGOING TO SECRETARIAT. KISSINGER

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